

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to better define and better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. Support is found in Figure 7, item 421, in Figure 10(f), and at page 13 lines 10-11. A clerical correction has been made in claim 13. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

The several art rejections are respectfully traversed. In the action, the Examiner acknowledges the primary reference Ma et al. '922 and the secondary reference Smesny et al. do not teach a pattern portion and plurality of electrodes having pores of predetermined size formed therein. Applicants agree. However, the Examiner takes the position that this missing teaching is supplied by Loewenhardt et al. Even assuming arguendo Loewenhardt et al. is as the Examiner states, there is nothing within the four corners of Loewenhardt et al. that teaches or suggests that the pattern portion comprise an SiO₂ layer as required by Applicants' claim 1, as amended. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion within the four corners of Loewenhardt et al. of a plurality of electrodes for separating ions and electrons of plasma by energy, under a pattern portion as required by Applicants' claim 1, as amended. As pointed out in the paragraph bridging pages 9-10 of Applicants' specification, forming the patterns in an SiO₂ layer permits measuring voltage and current characteristics in a high-aspect pattern. Thus, providing a pattern portion in an SiO₂ layer as required by Applicants' claimed invention is more than merely academic and provides advantages.

None of the other secondary references supplies the missing teachings to the Ma et al., Smesny et al. and Loewenhardt et al. combination to achieve or render obvious claim 1 or any of the claims dependent thereon. Ma '636 has been cited as teaching aluminum as electrode

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material and aluminum oxide as insulator material connections specifically with respect to the rejection of claim 2. Even assuming arguendo Ma '636 is as the Examiner suggests, the more basic and essential claim features missing from the Ma et al. '922, Smesny et al. and Loewenhardt et al. combination are not supplied by Ma '636.

Toyoda which has been cited specifically with the above combination with respect to claims 7 and 8 also fails to supply the more basic and essential missing teachings to the Ma et al., Smesny et al. and Loewenhardt et al. combination as above discussed. Similar comments apply to Pinnaduwage which is combined with Ma et al., Smesny et al. and Loewenhardt et al. to reject claims 10 and 11, and to Johnson et al. which has been combined with Ma et al., Smesny et al., Loewenhardt et al. and Ma '636 to reject claim 13.

In summary, it is submitted that none of the applied art alone or in combination teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in claim 1, as amended, or the advantages thereof.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 10/501,351
Docket No. SHIG CPTA0502 FE
Amendment D

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May 1, 2008, at Tucson, Arizona.

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